

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A protective undergarment, comprising:

an outer layer of fluid-resistant material shaped to conform to a buttock and leg region of a user;

an anchor layer of fluid absorbent material secured to the outer layer and having a shape generally conforming to that of the outer layer; and

an inner layer of fluid-resistant material with four sides thereof stitched directly to the anchor layer but not directly to the outer layer, the stitched four sides thereof being displaced inwardly from corresponding sides toward a center of the anchor layer, and the inner layer at all four sides thereof extending from the anchor layer, on the inner side of the undergarment when the undergarment is worn, to form a pocket.
2. (Previously Presented) The protective undergarment as in claim 1, wherein a base portion of the pocket is positioned on a surface of the anchor layer.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Withdrawn) A protective undergarment as in claim 16, wherein the periphery of the pocket is stitched to the second layer.

6. (Withdrawn) A protective undergarment as in claim 16, wherein the periphery of the pocket and second layer are joined at an elastic strip.

7. (Withdrawn) A protective undergarment as in claim 1, wherein the pocket is attached to the anchor layer by a releasable fastener.

8. (Withdrawn) A protective undergarment as in claim 7, wherein the releasable fastener comprises a filamentary or snap fastener.

9. (Withdrawn) A protective undergarment as in claim 1, wherein the inner layer is formed by a rectangular piece of material, the corners of which are folded inward and outer edge of the pocket covered by an elastic strip.

10. (Currently Amended) The protective undergarment as in claim 1, wherein the inner layer is a rectangular piece of material, with triangular portions near the corners of the pocket ~~removed~~ omitted, and remaining adjacent sides of the pocket joined together, ~~and~~ an outer edge of the pocket being covered by an elastic strip.

11. (Withdrawn) A protective undergarment as in claim 9, wherein opposite ends of the pocket are cuffed and the elastic strip covers edges of the cuffs to establish an elasticized adjustable pocket opening.

12. (Withdrawn) A protective undergarment as in claim 9, wherein the pocket is attached to the anchor layer by a releasable fastener.

13. (Withdrawn) A protective undergarment as in claim 10, wherein the pocket is attached to the anchor layer by a releasable fastener.

14. (Withdrawn) A protective undergarment as in claim 9, wherein the pocket is attached to the anchor layer by connecting pieces of material.

15. (Withdrawn) A protective undergarment as in claim 16, wherein the pocket floats with respect the first, outer layer.

16. (Withdrawn) A protective undergarment, comprising:
a first, outer layer of fluid-resistant material;
a second layer of material having its peripheral edge attached to the first layer, a shape conforming to that of the first layer and a central opening;
a third layer of material attached only at its outer edge by an elastic strip to the second layer and extending beneath the opening toward the first layer, the third layer being proportioned relative to the opening so as to form a pocket, the entire periphery of which is beneath the second layer and larger than the opening.

17. (Previously Presented) The protective undergarment as in claim 1, wherein the sides are interconnected to form the pocket.

18. (Previously Presented) The protective undergarment as in claim 17, wherein the sides are interconnected by stitching.

19. (Currently Amended) The protective undergarment as in claim 1, wherein ~~an entire perimeter of the pocket~~ the inner layer at all four sides thereof is circumscribed by an elastic strip.

20. (Previously Presented) The protective undergarment as in claim 1, wherein the anchor layer is secured to the outer layer only at a peripheral edge of the outer layer.

21. (Previously Presented) The protective undergarment as in claim 17, wherein adjacent sides of the inner layer intersect at stitch lines to form corners of the pocket.